

A vintage black and white photograph of a street scene. The view is from a slightly elevated position looking down a street. On the right side, there is a large, multi-story brick building with a prominent cornice. A streetcar is visible on the street, moving away from the viewer. The street is lined with utility poles and wires. The overall scene is somewhat hazy, suggesting an early 20th-century setting.

THE  
*Crazy Ladies*  
of  
PEARL STREET

TRE VAN IAN

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# The The CrazyLadies of Pearl Street CrazyLadies of Pearl Street by Trevanian

Trevanian

mythical author Trevanian brings readers his so much own novel yet: The CrazyLadies of Pearl Street a funny, deeply felt, frequently touching autobiographical novel destined to turn into a vintage American coming-of-age story. The position is Albany, New York. The 12 months is 1936. Six-year-old Jean-Luc LaPointe, his little sister, and their lively yet weak younger mom were abandoned—again—by his father, a charmer and a con artist. without funds and no relatives keen to take them in, the LaPointes be capable to create a delicate nest at 238 North Pearl Street. For the following 8 years, in the course of the nice melancholy and moment global War, they stay within the center of the Irish slum, with its ward heelers, unemployment, and grinding poverty. As Jean-Luc discovers, it's a local of "crazyLadies": omit Cox, the dreaded and ridiculed instructor who ignites his imagination; Mrs. Kane, who runs a attractiveness parlor/fortune-telling salon at the back of her husband's grocery store; Mrs. Meehan, the desperate, harried matriarch of a thuggish kin around the street; lonely Mrs. McGivney, who spends each day tending to her catatonic husband, a veteran of the good War; and Jean-Luc's personal unconventional, vivacious mother. Jean-Luc is a voracious reader who by no means stops dreaming of a fashion out of the slum. He progressively takes on accountability for the family's survival with a mixture of bravery and resentment whereas his mother turns from spells of affliction and melancholy to keen making plans for the day whilst "our send will come in." It's a heartfelt and unforgettable glance again at one child's lifestyles within the Nineteen Thirties and '40s, a narrative that may be remembered lengthy after the final web page is turned. Look for those Trevanian classics from 3 Rivers Press: Shibumi, The Eiger Sanction, the John Sanction, The summer season of Katya, and The Main. From the Hardcover edition.

Bu ikinci ku?ak insanlar?n kendi aralar?nda ve daha öncekilerle rastgele ve süresiz çiftle?melerinden de yirmi kadar çocuk ç?km??t?. Hepsi karde?/kuzen/baba/amca/o?ul/torun ili?kileri içindeydi. Her bir Meehan, soyad?n? en az?ndan iki kere hak etmekteydi, ama içlerinden yaln?zca biri 'Bayan Meehan' diye an!?ıyordu. A?iretin yemeklerini pi?iren, küçük çocuklara bakan, temizli?ini yapan genellikle oydu –ço?u zaman temizlik de, y?rt?k p?rt?k bir saçakl? süpürgeyle kirlerin yer de?i?tirmesini sa?lamaktan ibaretti. "Eh, burada inekler donana kadar oturamay?z ya!" dedi. "Ben içeriyi bir kolaçan edeyim. Belki Ray birine nereye gidece?ini, ne zaman dönece?ini söylemi? olabilir. Siz e?yalar?m?za göz kulak olun." Basamaklar? ç?k?p k?rm?z? tu?ladan yap?lm?? sala? binaya girdi. Duyarl?dan da öte, hemen içim kalkar. Apartman?n giri? holüne ad?m?m? att???m anda çekti?im ilk solukla The CrazyLadies of Pearl Street birlikte, küf, lizol, bayat ya?, çürümü? ah?ap, ter, fare tersi, kömür tozu, bebek çi?i ve ha?lanm?? lahana kar???m?, yüz elli y?ll?k yoksulluk, umutsuzluk kokusu, kal?c? rutubetin e?li?inde burun deliklerime doldu. Bizim binan?n özenti süsleri, kartonpiyerleri, eskimi? kat kat boyalar alt?na saklanm?? iddial? görünü?üyle yaratt??? izlenim, kibarken yoksulla?m??l?ktan ba?ka bir ?ey de?ildi. Kibar bir ya?l? kad?n?n bar kavgas?nda ön di?lerini kaybetmesi gibi. Buna kar???l?k radyonun üstünlü?ü, bizi kendine çekmesi, hayal gücümüzü me?gul etmesi, resimleri zihnimizin duvarlar?na kendimiz yapal?m diye bizi zorlamas?yd?. Ben uzun süre boyunca, Protestan olarak yaln?zca zencileri tan?m??t?m. Protestan olman?n,

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Katolik olmaya göre daha canlı bir şey olmasa gerektiği kanısındaydım. Tabii daha sonra beyaz Protestanlar tanınca, bunun hiç de böyle olmadığını öğrendim. Ama en azından, Protestanların çoğu sonunda o katı, steril çocukluklarının etkisinden kurtulabiliyorlardı. Oysa The Crazy Ladies of Pearl Street Yahudilerle Katolikler, kendi belirsizlikleriyle ve The Crazy Ladies of Pearl Street suçluluk duygularıyla ömürlerinin sonuna kadar boşuyor, daha da beteri, herkese de bunu anlatıp duruyorlardı. Gerçeklerle kanlılar, önyargular alt edecek kadar güçlü olamazdı. Mohavkların bağı dönmez, çünkü dönmeyeceğine inanırlar. Tabii bu hediyeler, açlıkla arasında en fazla iki dolar ve birkaç gün bulunan bir aile için hovardalık sayılırdı, ama çevrelerinde tüketim toplumu coşup taşarken yoksulluğa demir atmış insanlar da durumla başa çıkma yöntemi buydu. Yemeklere, derslere ve kiliseye sessiz taburlar halinde yürüydük. Elektrikli ziller hayatımızda noktalama işaretleriydi. Kelimelere her zaman hayranlık duyardım. O küçük ses paketleri, türlü anlamlar, duygular ve tavırlar sarıp sarmalardı. Amber içinde kalmış fosil böceklerin sarmalanması gibi. Bugünlerde bir ara ansızın dönecek, bizi alıp çok uzaklara götürecekti. Ben çok küçükken annemin bu dönen ans sözünü, Hudson nehrindeki iskelelerden birine yanaşan bir The Crazy Ladies of Pearl Street gemi gibi hayal ederdim. Bildiğimiz masallardaki gibi. Bizim iskelede gemiye doğru yürüyecek, hiç arkamıza bakmayacaktık. Hoş, rahatlatıcı bir hayaldi. Derken bir gün annem, bende yüksek IQ oldu için bir şeyler icat edebileceğimi, ünlü olabileceğimi, o sayede harikulade bir evde yaşayacağımı anlatırken birdenbire farkına vardı ki, annemin bekleyip durduğu o gemi aslında benimim. Mideme bir şey oturdu sanki. Buz gibi bir duygu. Bizi nci Sokağımızdan kurtarmak benim görevimdi. Bu sorumluluğun ağırlığına başım döndü. Kendimi hikâye oyunlarına daha yoğun bir biçimde gömmeye koyuldum. Sonsuzluğun ne baş ne de sonu vardı. Bu cümleyi anlıyordum. Yani... içindeki tüm kelimelerin anlamını biliyordum. O açıldan cümleyi anlıyor sayılırdım. Ama bu bence, yakalamayacağım da tutmayacağım da o kaypak kavramlardan biriydi. Ya da bir bilyeyi, Çin lokantalarının yemek çubuklarıyla yakalamak gibi bir şey. Papa'nın bize iyi niyetle gülümsemeye çalıştığını görüyordum, ama asetik hatlar ve incecik dudaklar, gülümsemeye pek uygun deildi. Bu yüksek kalorili ihtiras ziyafetlerinin on yıllarında bir çocuğa verdiği ana mesaj, ağız karanlık ve tehlikeli bir iş oldu. Geceleri hafif sesle, evlerin içindeki radyolarda çalınan şarkılarda bunlar... alçak sesle oluydu, aslında komutalara nezaketten çok şarkılarda kökenlilerin radyoyu yüksek sesle çalmanın daha pahalı olduğu yolundaki inancındandı. Zaten erkekleri köle işçi haline gelmeye zorlayan da çocuklardı. Yerindeki o kolej mezunu, züppe şeflerin bir halt bildiği yoktu. Kimse de yaşıtlarına layık olduğu saygıyı göstermiyordu. Bütün bunlar Eleanor Roosevelt'in suçuydu! Kadın dediğinin istenmediği yerlere burnunu sokmazdı! Anneme göre, bizim temizlik, dürüstlük ve özsaygı düzeyimizin altında kalan insanlarla yaklaşmak tehlikeliydi, çünkü 'bir kuş sürüsünü tüylerine bakarak ayrıştırmazsınız' (Bu da annemin dile katkılarından biriydi -kaynağı herhalde, 'bir kitabı kapısına bakarak anlayamazsınız' deyimiydi, 'e The Crazy Ladies of Pearl Street tüyleri olan kuşlar bir araya toplanır' deyimimin bilemi olmalıydı). Aralık duran pencereden bu ilkel çiftleşme şarkısının apaçık sözlerini dinlerken, bütün bu bayağılık ve aptallık beni tiksindiriyordu. Ne de olsa, ben gevrek zekaya sahip, on bir yaşında bir çocuktum, salyası aka aka birbirinin kasına koklayıp duran bu köpeklerse yeni yetmeydi ... yani benden çok ağırdırlar ... dünyalar vardı aramızda, kültürler vardı, sonsuzluklar vardı. Madem sevişmek o kadar yüce ve güzel bir şeydi, doğa neden bu işi bu kadar küçümsüyordu da, işi işeme teçhizatıyla yapmak zorunda bırakıyordu? Benim sunak görevlisi olmanın dindarlıkla falan ilgisi olmadıkça gibi, inançla bile ilgisi yoktu. Katolik olmanın nedeni, solak olmanın nedeninden farklı deildi ... öyle doğumutüm da ondandı. Çok

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iyi anl?yordum! ?u d?nyada ani sessizlikleri duyabilen, bir kimsenin bulunmas? gereken yerde bulunmad???n? g?rebilen tek ki?inin ben oldu?umu san?yordum. Bu negatif alg?lar?m? hi?bir zaman a?k?a seslendirememi?tim, ama her zaman hissetti?im ger?ekti.(?ocukken kulland???m yumu?at?lm?? lanetler ve k?f?rler art?k de?i?mi?ti. O zamanlar o kelimelerin, de?i?tirilm? dinsel kelimeler, isimler oldu?unu bilsem bile, Tanr?'n?n bunun fark?na varmayaca??n? d?ü?ünecek kadar masumtum.)Kar??la?t??? gezici tar?m i?çilerinden söz ederken bir tanesinin çok çirkin oldu?unu söylüyordu ... 'öyle çirkin ki, onca çirkinlik surat?na s??m?yordu' diyor, 'biraz?n? da elindeki kesekâ??d?nda ta??mak zorunda kal?yordu,' diye bitiriyordu. Ben bu absürt dalgas?na hemen kat?ld?m, günün birinde o köylünün kar??s?na dünya güzeli bir kad?n?n ç?kaca??n?, onun da yüzüne s??mayan güzelli?inin biraz?n? kesekâ??d?nda ta??mak zorunda kalaca??n? ekledim.Lorna Teyzenin kusursuz temizlik düzeyinde bak?p korudu?u o çocuksuz, sessiz evde, kendimi yanl?? yerdeymi?im gibi hissediyordum. Bu sinirli temizlik bana do?al de?ilmi? gibi The CrazyLadies of Pearl Street geliyordu."Çok tatlı bir insan ama siz de The CrazyLadies of Pearl Street takdir edersiniz, ?sa'n?n haremının en zeki gelinin say?lmaz."Kaçma konusuyla ilgili hikâye oyunlar?n?n tecrübeli bir ustas? olarak, bu 'Bat?daki Turist Kamp?' meselesinin asl?nda analjezik bir hayal oldu?unun fark?ndayd?m. 'Hani derler ya: Bir elin umutta, öbürü bokta, bakal?m hangisi daha çabuk dolacak.'Annemin bir imza vermesi gerekti?inde onunla birlikte bankaya gittim. Kapitalizm tap?na??n?n serin mermerlerini, koyu renk ah?aplar?n?, ???ldayan pirinçlerini ilk o zaman gördüm. Bir daha ancak yirmi y?! sonra kendimi bir bankada bulacakt?m.Kuzenlerimin ya?ça en büyük olan?, hem kendi ilkel mizah anlay???n? hem de salakl???n?n derinli?ini ortaya koymaya kalkm??, yandaki kuzene sar?lm??, ard?ndan gaz kaç?rm??, sonra da battaniyeyi ikisinin birden kafas?n? örtecek ?ekilde çekmi?, kurban?n? da garip hareketinin etkilerine mahkûm etmi?ti. Benim tek tesellim, Lorna Teyzeyle Tonio Eni?tenin kendi çocuklar? olmamas?, bu gr?hla aramda hi? ortak gen bulunmamas?yd?. Bunlar 'nezaket' kuzeniydi yaln?zca.??te hikayenin common ultimate sahnesi... o?lan toprak yoldan gidiyor... çocuklu?undan ç?k?p hayat?n?n geri kalan?na do?ru ilerliyor. Ama bizim hayatlar?m?z sürekli ve birbiriyle birlikte örülmü?tür. Hikayelerin dokusu, kolay y?rt?lan bir kuma? de?ildir. Ba?lanacak iplik uçlar?, tatmin edilecek meraklar, seslendirilecek vedalar vard?r.Baz?lar? hi? ö?renmez. Hayat iyi ö?retmendir derler ama, bo?una. ?yi ö?retmenler asla dersi ö?retmeden önce s?nav? önüne dayamaz.Gemisi gelip yana?m??t?... içi ona nasip olmam?? ba?ar?larla doluydu.

## The CrazyLadies Of Pearl Street

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